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TEMP Max 26 | Min 19 | Humidity 86% Generally cloudy sky with light rain Sensex 54,395 | Nifty 16,216 | Gold 50,740 | Silver 57,010 | Dollar 79.52 | Euro 80.10 | GBP 94.52

Colossal potholes emerging on white-topped/ concretised roads, bigger than those seen on tarred stretches, pose critical questions on future of urban road infra

THE POTHOLIO

BBMP white-topping roads under special infra projects grants

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A few years ago, as the tarred roads turned into stretches infested with craters, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) promised the 'moon' for motorists in the city.

The civic body said major roads will be either white-topped or concretised. The municipal corporation had justified the move saying these white-topped or concretised roads will have a longer life as there won't be any potholes.

Now, many of the white-topped and concretised roads are rife with potholes.

For instance, the road near professor CNR Rao Circle is withering away as potholes have developed on the stretch. Most of the potholes are seen at joints.

Likewise, the road near Shantinagar bus stand was concretised with the hope that the 'world class' road will last at least for a decade, if not more. However, the potholes on this stretch are so huge that they are bigger than those seen on the tarred roads. Now, this raises questions over the future of concretised and white-topped roads in Bengaluru city limits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

KAUSHIK JN

"Many citizens opposed concretisation of roads as it reduces absorption of rainwater... The money has just gone down the drain...

— Suresh S, citizen activist

Sound Advice

Why teachers in post pandemic classrooms started using microphones to lecture

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Covid-19 pandemic brought several changes to how we do things. Alongside masks and sanitisers, virtual meetings and lessons took over the world in the past two years.

Many individuals had to adapt in various ways, and at times, completely change the ways they were used to, to fit in.

For instance, when schools reopened after almost two years, students and teachers struggled to return to in-person lessons, with masks on, amid unvaccinated students, and of course the looming danger of another covid wave.

A rather curious problem arose back then: most students were unable to clearly hear what the teachers were saying with face masks on as physical classes resumed.

"This is an issue that a lot of people faced after the schools reopened last year in August. The voices of teachers with face masks on, weren't very clear; in turn the students weren't able to understand what the teachers were saying. As we had to follow covid guidelines we came up with a solution," said Mahabaleshwara Tunga, the principal at Soundarya Composite PU College in Nagasandra.

The teachers at the college figured out a way to tackle the issue: clip-on speakers.

"There are microphones and speakers available on e-commerce platforms that you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Paint the town

Folks, do something different this Sunday as artist Harshita (@brush_es on Instragram) is conducting a fun-filled 'paint with me' session at Church Street SOCIAL. It is an acrylic painting session where Harshita will be guiding you to paint on a canvas board and will be painting a starry/galaxy sky. Everything will be provided including paints, brushes, canvas and the most joyous artist will guide your imagination!
Where: Church Street SOCIAL
When: July 17, 12pm onwards
Info: 9482066785

02 Art, with love

'Remembering with Love' is a 3-hour Expressive Art Immersion where you get to go on a journey of storytelling, dancing, drawing, painting, creating art and much more! In this session you will be guided and encouraged to use the magic of your childlike imagination to create art, to play, to express yourself and to softly transmute the emotional strains/burdens of our day to day lives. No mind only heart!
Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeswanthpur Industrial Suburb
When: July 16, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Registration: https://linktr.ee/blrcreativecircus

03 Stories of Mahabharata

Few stories in the world are as intriguing as the Mahabharata, with its numerous plots and subplots and characters having strengths and flaws in equal measure. 'Stories from the Mahabharata' is an endeavour by Aparna Jaishankar to recreate an interest in this epic.
Where: Lahe Lahe
When: July 16, 5-6 pm
Tickets: 9886294444

Mind, body and heart

More and more Bengalureans — especially males — are seeking consultations from psychologists and diabetologists; lifestyle changes essential, experts say

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Heal thy body and soul: Exercising, avoiding junk food and addressing mental issues will help

The pandemic blues may be on the wane, but its repercussions -- physical and mental -- will continue to stay for a while. Now, city psychologists say there's an increase in consultations, particularly males.

Connect and Heal, a Bengaluru-based integrated health-tech company, has seen an increase in number of people consulting psychologists and diabetologists post covid.

Over 45 per cent people consult psychologists more often now as compared to pre covid.

The survey stated that particularly males (62 per cent) have come in for consultations between the age of 36-40 years of age.

This apart, it was also revealed that 19 per cent people consulted diabetologists more often now as compared to pre covid.

A 46-year-old having a healthy and busy life before Covid was suddenly diagnosed with Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) and depression after one of the family members died because of Covid.

The symptoms were very prominent and the patient underwent psychotherapy for his psychological disturbances for 3 months with medication.

Jagruti R Shah, a counselling psychologist at Connect and Heal pointed out that COVID triggered anxiety and obsessive-thoughts related to health and hygiene in many people. While it also impacted the social and interpersonal life of many people, bounding them to be home restricted and lonely.

> **"Covid affected males physically and mentally more as they are financially responsible**
>
> –Jagruti R Shah, counselling psychologist, Connect and Heal

Lots of interpersonal conflicts increased during covid leading to depression and relationship problems.

She said, "Covid has impacted both genders but males were affected more as they are financially responsible. Covid has impacted their social, financial and interpersonal life, leading to problems like depression, anxiety, ocd and substance abuse.

"Common concerns for people are health anxiety, relationship conflicts, obsessive-compulsive disorders, depression and addictions."

Dr Girishchandra, Sr Consultant - Psychiatry, Aster CMI Hospital, added that difficulty concentrating, sleep problems, relationship issues etc were worsening for many. "Work from home, inability to manage work/life balance, losing jobs, financial problems, increase in physical time spent in a confined environment by couples and family, etc are some of the reasons."

Diabetes on the rise

Dr Haleema Yezdani, Consultant at Connect and Heal, said, " The increased genetic preponderance of diabetes again has a connection with the fat metabolism which is less in men. They usually have more stored belly fat than womens. This, in turn, causes an increase in building up of stress leading to metabolic ailments like diabetes. The problems usually faced by diabetic people are increased hunger, increased thirst, passing more urine, delayed wound healing, having the risk for more infections, all metabolism-related ailments are noted."

Dr Yezdani pointed out at several preventive measures to avoid sedentary lifestyle, such as increase physical activities like walking /exercise for at least 45 minutes a day, avoid fatty food, avoid oily food, avoid sweets, and most importantly, maintain good sleep hygiene by sleeping for at least 7-8 hours which would work wonders.

Mixed responses to State Govt's common calendar

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The State Government's recent release of a uniform timetable for the entire state for graduation and post-graduation courses has brought mixed reactions from students and educators. While some students are confused, teachers say the new plan will help them finish the syllabus faster.

As per this uniform program list, admissions for degree courses across the state will start on July 11 and classes will start between August 17 to 22. The admission process for postgraduate courses will start on October 15 and the classes will start between November 2 and 14.

Following the release of the calendar, netizens pointed out that in August, there will be two first-year batches on the campus since the first semester classes for the 2022-23 batch are set to begin in August while the 2021-22 second semester classes will end in September.

"There will be four batches on campus for a 3-year degree. Before the end of the final year, how can the first-year batch start? How can the infrastructure in any college accommodate that?" a netizen commented on the new calendar.

Students say the new schedule might be confusing with four batches on campus

On the other hand, universities and colleges in Bengaluru are in support of the new initiative and have said that they will take action to ensure the proper implementation of the academic calendar.

Prof Niranjan Vanalli, Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru North University said that it was a long-needed decision and all the universities should follow it. "It is definitely a great initiative by the government since some colleges have been lagging behind the schedule. Many private colleges have been starting their session in May while others do it in November."

Talking about the issues being pointed out with the academic calendar, he said that it can be easily managed. "Colleges can find a solution. It is really important to have a common calendar."

Prof Shrinivas Balli, Vice-Chancellor of Nrupathunga University also spoke on similar lines. "We have no problem with the calendar. In fact, it aligns with the schedule that we had planned earlier for our university so we do not have to make any such changes."

With the new academic calendar in place, universities hope to get back to a normal schedule.

City testy about kids' covid tests

Parents not too keen on getting kids below 12 years tested so covid cases not being detected?

Schools have reopened and flu cases also are on the rise

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A drop in the covid-19 testing rate among children in the unvaccinated age group (below 12) is likely contributing to a decline in reported cases.

While the number of overall cases has been on the rise in the city, fewer covid cases are being reported among children between zero and nine years of age. This number has plateaued and also shows a small dip compared to a month ago. "While the transmission in this age group has dropped as per official data, this can be attributed to the low testing rate among unvaccinated children. We are getting plenty of patients with flu-like symptoms but there is no way to ascertain if they have the virus. This is because many parents are not willing to get the kids tested," said Dr. Jagdish Chinnappa, senior paediatric consultant, at Manipal Hospital.

According to experts, it is the flu season and a spike in flu-like symptoms has been observed irrespective of covid. "This time around, it is a combination of flu, dengue and covid. Also, schools have restarted and as the kids who were not exposed to these viruses for the last two years, are coming in contact now so more cases are being reported. Parents are also moving around a lot. All these factors make the kids more prone to these infections," said Dr Gunda Srinivas, Aster RV Hospital.

Doctors say while most children are being treated symptomatically, some cases are being referred for RT-PCR testing. However, parents are giving it a miss. "We are advising them to get tested if children are not showing signs of recovery within two to three days. We also suggest parents get the kids tested if the family has elderly people or anyone with chronic disease. However, some parents are reluctant as in the case of children, the treatment course does not change much," informed Dr Chinnappa.

Unavailability of vaccines for children below 12 years of age, social stigma related to the infection and the fear of being isolated are some other reasons parents give tests the pass. "While a section of parents are not going for tests as they do not want to shell out money, there is another group that is affected by the stigma surrounding the infection. They also do not want to disclose it for the fear of missing work. The isolation regime of around ten days is holding many people back," said Dr Srinivas.

While the number of children exhibiting flu-like symptoms is high, experts say there is not much to fret about. The current covid-19 strain is mild and children are recovering well within three to four days.

Most kids with covid are presenting with mild symptoms such as fever, rash and abdominal pain

"Currently, we are getting 30-40 patients with flu-like symptoms. Even if it is the covid, it is a mild strain and settles down within a couple of days. Basic hand hygiene and home isolation are doing the trick for now," said Dr Chinnappa.

Most children with covid are presenting with mild symptoms such as fever, rash and abdominal pain. They respond well to oral medication and show improvement within 24-48 hours

"Children with fever lasting less than 48 hours with mild symptoms are treated symptomatically through OPD visits with no further investigations. Covid tests are compulsorily carried out only for children who are admitted to the ward and ICU regularly. Moreover, they are all responding well to oral medicines," said Dr Ramu DS, BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital.

B'luru sans strays: Minister

Karnataka Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chauhan on Monday said that the animal husbandry department is keenly looking at making Bengaluru free of stray dogs.

The animal husbandry department is thinking about making Bengaluru stray dog-free after getting many complaints of dog attacks and rabies in the city, as per details by the department.

"It is important to catch the street dogs and give them all the required vaccines so that people need not have to worry about street dogs. We are also planning to bring them under one shelter where they can be rescued and properly taken care of so that people don't get any scarcity and disturbance by the street dogs," said Chauhan.

Chauhan also held a meeting with officials of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the concerned department regarding vaccinating dogs to control their birth rate in Bengaluru. **ANI**

Farmers' siege stopped

Karnataka sugarcane farmers who attempted to lay siege to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommais residence in Bengaluru were detained on Monday.

Thousands of sugarcane farmers had arrived in Bengaluru from across the state demanding that their demands be met. The protesters are demanding Rs 4,500 per ton of sugarcane, immediate payment of old bills and halting action on non-payment of electricity bills. The protestors said that the government has turned a blind eye towards their problems. Many cabinet ministers are owners of sugar factories, they should come forward to give justice to sugarcane growers. They said the government has not bothered to provide the State Advisory Price (SAP) on sugarcane for 4 years. **IANS**

Thin layer of patchwork comes apart in Varthur

Barely a month after Varthur Road was repaired, asphalt comes off and holes appear

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It seems Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers are not at all bothered about ensuring quality in road asphalting works despite criticism, probes, and suspensions. As if the recent criticism and suspension orders are not enough, some BBMP engineers continue colluding with contractors. The BBMP engineers are also not interested in being on the spot when the asphalting work begins nor in inspecting the quality after the work is completed.

For example, most of the main roads and crossroads that were asphalted barely a month ago at Varthur in the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency are once again in news for the same reason – potholes and craters.

It is quite shocking to see potholes, cracks and craters have developed on these roads so soon. On an average, the durability of an asphalted road is a minimum of three years. The residents have complained about poor quality and quantity of asphalting. They said the thickness of the asphalt is 10 to 20 mm against the specified thickness of 40 mm as per the specification.

"I have already brought the substandard work by the contractor to the notice of the BBMP engineer but nothing has been done to fill up potholes or to relay one more layer of asphalt. Seeds germinate and ants build nests out of newly asphalted roads. All the recently laid roads in Varthur ward have eroded and cracks appear all over," said Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising.

The prescribed thickness of the asphalt of the roads is 40 mm but on Varthur Road it is just 10 to 20 mm thick

Expressing a similar opinion, Vasudev P, a resident of Varthur said the BBMP engineer has miserably failed to ensure quality and the thickness of asphalt or bitumen is not on par with a specified thickness of 40 mm on most of the crossroads.

"The BBMP engineer must not be allowed to make a bill for asphalting and the BBMP higher-ups should ensure no payment is made to the contractor responsible for the shoddy work. The condition of all the roads in Varthur and Prakash Layout is the same," said Vasudev.

Residents complain that patches are visible on the majority of the roads. They said that they expected the BBMP to provide good roads for them as they had already suffered for quite a long time due to poor road infrastructure in and around Varthur.

> **"The BBMP engineer must not prepare a bill for asphalting the roads and authorities must ensure that no payment is made to the contractor responsible for this work** –Vasudev P, Varthur resident

"What is the use of asphalting roads without preparing the surface of the roads before asphalting them? The BBMP contractor was in a terrible hurry to complete asphalting work. He did not bother whether the workers were laying bitumen as per specifications," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, BBMP ward engineer Venkatesh has said that he assumed office recently and was not aware of the works taken during his predecessor's tenure. "Prior to getting transferred to Varthur ward, I was working at Bengaluru West. I am not aware of the work taken up during my predecessor's tenure. I cannot engage the contractor to relay one more layer of asphalt on these roads. I have to seek my higher authorities' nod," says Venkatesh.

However, Nandeesh, the engineer waiting for posting after being shunted out of Varthur ward, has said that he did not prepare the bill to make payment to the contractor. "I am not responsible for the asphalting works taken up recently," he said.

Flex board is blocking zebra crossing

Crossing the road at HMT ground signal has become a perilous affair in peak hours

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The commuters in RT Nagar are facing a lot of problems because of the flex board that is blocking the zebra crossing at the HMT ground signal, in front of the Police Station.

The pedestrians say that it can be dangerous because they are usually in a hurry when they cross the roads.

Joseph Matthew, a commuter, said, "Due to these flex boards, the roads have become very risky. The flex board is blocking the zebra crossing. During the morning and the afternoon hours, the road has a lot of traffic and people walk very fast, hence there is a lot of chaos, so many people have injured themselves because of this flex board."

Geetha Pillai, another commuter, said, "The flex board has become a big hindrance for us pedestrians. It blocks the space in the road and makes it congested. It also spoils the entire look of the place. And it is very dangerous also, it can severely affect two-wheeler riders."

The flex board blocking the crossing at HMT ground signal in RT Nagar

The commuters also said the road is used by senior citizens and even kids. Kids are not always attentive while crossing the roads. Hence, they can easily injure themselves because of the flex board.

Even for senior citizens, it becomes difficult to cross the road because of the flex boards.

The usage of flex boards was completely banned in the city in the year 2018. However, flex boards are still seen across the city.

The pedestrians also said that the CBI Road, Ganganagar also has several flex boards.

Jagadhish M, a resident of the area, said, "These flex boards are very dangerous for the commuters, especially the one who drives two-wheelers. They are not even fixed properly. In the last few days when it was raining, one of them even fell and broke. It can fall on anyone who is commuting and cause serious accidents for them."

Mahesh S, another resident, said, "Commuting through these roads is quite risky. We have been complaining about this for such a long time now and still, no action has been taken by any authorities. Anyone can hurt themselves at any point in time. Why should the authorities even wait for any such incident to happen before taking any steps."

A BBMP official said that they would send their officials to have a look at the area and start the work soon.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Illegal construction?
Nandini Layout

BESCOM is building a transformer station right on the footpath on 21st Main Road (near BHEL Park), Nandini Layout against HC orders. Garbage and debris is lying around the area.

Unsightly pavement
Koramangala

This pavement is covered with construction material on 80 Feet Road, 6th block, Koramangala

Water wastage
Peenya

Water is being wasted every day in Peenya 1st Stage Service Road.

Now they say it: MES flyover needs fixing

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BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Monday said that there were structural problems with the MES flyover connecting the Outer Ring Road, and they would be fixed immediately with the help of the railways.

This comes after several of Bengaluru's flyovers were inspected by civic authorities a month ago for safety reasons.

Nath said, "The MES flyover has structural issues. As the bridge was constructed by South Western Railways and maintained by us, we have now asked the railways to fix the structural problems. We will pay the railways to fix it. Now, railways will inspect the bridge and come up with solutions as to what can be done."

The agreement signed between the railways and BDA before the construction of the flyover states, "The bridge proper (foundation, sub-structure and structural components including bearings and returns if any) within the railway limits shall be maintained by railways. The above items on the approaches and the bridge wearing cost, expansion joints and parapet protection measures etc on the complete bridge and approaches shall be maintained by the road authorities (BDA). The provision and maintenance of the road surface shall be the responsibility of the road authority (State Government) at the cost of the entire portion of the bridge."

BDA has now handed over the bridge maintenance to BBMP. Unlike the other ORR flyovers which are six-lane flyovers, this is a merely three-lane flyover which has been converted into a bi-directional flyover with hardly any space for smooth vehicle movement.

Drive, at your own risk: A file image of MES flyover

Traffic solutions to be monitored: BBMP

Meanwhile, the BBMP has decided to hire an independent consultant to study the traffic solutions being adopted by BBMP and traffic police. Nath added, "During Monday's meeting, we discussed the effectiveness of the new traffic rules being implemented at various junctions. Now, it is time to study the technicalities of the steps taken. Hence, we are engaging an independent consultant to study the traffic."

Meanwhile, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) BR Ravikanthe Gowda tweeted recently stating that the Hebbal junction traffic diversions were resulting in smooth flow of traffic.

However, citizen activist Sanjeev Dyamannanavar listed suggestions to be taken up at the Hebbal junction. He told Mirror: "The following issues need to be taken care of at Hebbal Flyover to reduce traffic jams: A down ramp needs to be added towards Bengaluru after Hebbal flyover across railway track. There is a need to construct a footpath around Hebbal flyover. The authorities should ensure that the BMTC buses are not parked on ORR around Hebbal flyover and instead should be parked in bus bays only."

He added that there was a need to provide taxi and auto bays as sufficient land is available. The police should not stop vehicles and collect fines.

"There is a need to provide bus bays for intercity travellers. There is sufficient land available on both sides of Airport Road. There is a need for good road conditions on the Hebbal flyover and below. The buses should not be parked on the main road after crossing the Hebbal flyover towards Bengaluru as it is blocking traffic."

FUEL BLUES

CNG prices are almost equal to that of diesel and petrol; auto drivers & owners of CNG-powered vehicles are disgruntled

An unfare life: Auto drivers

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If increased costs of living were already not stressful enough for Bengalureans, the increased CNG prices are now giving citizens and auto drivers sleepless nights.

At Jigni Gail Gas Station, the price of CNG is Rs 83 per kilogram, while at Indian Oil Petrol Pump – Swathi Enterprises, the current price of diesel is Rs 87.89 per litre and the price of petrol is Rs 101.94 per litre.

Manjunath K, an auto driver in the city, said, "With the increasing price of gas, it has become very difficult to make any profit. In a day I hardly get 10-15 people who take an auto. The passengers also always give less than what I ask for, but it ends up becoming a loss for me because whatever I get, is used up for buying gas and very little is left to take home."

They say that with the increase in the sale of electric vehicles in the city, their business has gone down further. Chandra Shekhar, another auto driver, said that nowadays, most people are using electric scooties to travel. "There is no option left for us either because prices have increased for everything."

On December 1, 2021, the basic auto fare was increased from Rs 25 to Rs 30 for the first two kilometres and Rs 15 for every kilometre thereafter. However, the auto drivers say that even that has not helped. Basavaraju S, an auto driver working for a ridesharing company, said, "Even after all the incentives and payment we receive from the company, we still run out of money."

For commuters, it is all about cost-cutting. Rishita Bajaj, an IT professional, added that for just travelling two to three kilometres, auto drivers charge Rs 100-150. "I usually walk or use rental scooties which costs half the price."

Auto drivers say they are not earning enough to take home; citizens say using CNG-powered vehicles is akin to using petrol-fuelled ones

Switching to CNG vehicles was pointless: Citizens

Citizens too are disgruntled, especially those who switched to CNG-fuelled vehicles.

Ashok Naik, an IT professional, said, "I had bought a CNG fitted Ertiga last year thinking that I would save by not using diesel and petrol. However, the price of CNG is increasing by leaps and bounds and now the price of diesel and CNG is almost the same."

Yohith Gowda, working as a manager, said that they sold their old car and bought a new CNG-fitted car thinking that travelling would become less expensive, but it costs the same."

The owners of CNG-driven cars also say that the lack of Gail Gas Stations in the core city is another problem that they are facing.

Ranjith Kumar, a resident of the area, said, "I was planning to shift from diesel to CNG. However, comparing the costs now, there is no such difference between CNG and diesel. Now I am not going to shift to CNG anytime soon."

Some of the vehicle owners had even manually fitted a CNG conversion kit in their vehicle to avoid the high prices of diesel and petrol. However, they say now that they should have waited for few more months.

Samriddhi Kaushal, working in a bank, said, "We had to shell out almost Rs 20,000 to get the CNG kit fixed. However, now we are noticing that there is hardly any price difference between diesel and CNG."

Some more bad news for king of good times

The Supreme Court on Monday sentenced fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya to four months in jail for committing contempt of court, saying he never showed any remorse nor tendered any apology for his conduct and adequate punishment must be imposed to maintain the majesty of the law.

The apex court directed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to secure the presence of Mallya to undergo the sentence.

A bench headed by Justice U U Lalit also imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on Mallya, who was held guilty of committing contempt of court by the top court on May 9, 2017, for transferring USD 40 million to his children in violation of court orders.

The bench, also comprising Justices S R Bhat and P S Narasimha, directed that Mallya and the beneficiaries under the said transactions relating to USD 40 million shall be bound to deposit the amount received along with interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum within four weeks. It said in case the amounts are not deposited, the recovery officer concerned shall be entitled to take appropriate proceedings for recovery of money and the Government of India and all concerned agencies shall extend assistance and complete cooperation.

It said in case the fine amount of Rs 2,000 is not deposited within the stipulated time, Mallya shall undergo a further sentence of two months. Mallya is accused in a bank loan default matter of over Rs 9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines. -PTI

Dr Jayakara is BU's new V-C

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has appointed Dr Jayakara SM, Principal and Head of the Department of Prosthodontics, AECS Maruthi College of Dental Sciences & Research Centre, Bengaluru as the Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University. His tenure will be for four years with effect from the date of assumption of office or until he attains the age of 67 years, whichever is earlier. He is the second doctor to head Bangalore University as the Vice Chancellor after Dr N Prabhudev. -BMB

White-topped roads develop potholes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The BBMP had proposed to take up white-topping on select roads in the city. White-topping is a cement concrete overlay on an existing bituminous pavement. The civic body is white-topping the roads under the special infrastructure projects grants.

Suresh S, a citizen activist, said, "There were reservations from residents for the white-topped roads. Many were opposing the concretisation of roads as it will reduce the absorption of rainwater. However, now looking at the condition of these roads, one can clearly understand the money has just gone down the drain."

Narendra S, a techie said, "When the roads were being upgraded for white-topping, the traffic was affected for more than a fortnight. Despite all the trouble, if the road turns bad, who will take the responsibility?"

In fact, white-topping/concretising the roads is quite expensive. Chief Minister Basavaraj

Bommai had said in the council earlier that it would cost Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1 crore to white-top/concretise a kilometre of bitumen road. However, the investment is Rs 10 crore per kilometre for a white-topped/concretised road.

According to traffic expert MN Sreehari, technically speaking, cement and white-topped roads have a longer life than the bitumen roads: "The white-topped roads will have comparatively lesser thickness as it is laid above the asphalt. However, cement roads have higher thickness. The joints are necessary in the white-topped roads for expansion. Unlike cemented roads, joints cannot be the weakness in white-topped roads. However, in cement roads, the corners and

"When the roads were being upgraded for white-topping, the traffic was affected for more than a fortnight

edges can be weak spots and it will be worn out in due course of time. There could be multiple reasons for a worn out white-topped road. Maybe the white-topped road was not properly cured. There should be due diligence and proper execution of works at every stage from design, laying, curing and inspection. Thickness can also be minimal at joints which could be the reason."

However, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike claimed that the tarred roads in the city have an expected life span of five years. Moreover, the arterial roads maintained by the BBMP were in need of maintenance/revival due to wear and tear from heavy traffic during peak hours.

Drainage is also a major cause of concern in the rainy season which was affecting the life of pavement in terms of structural failure.

In order to overcome the aforementioned drawbacks, white-topping was initiated. The civic body was of the view that to prevent the formation of potholes and to provide better ride quality for citizens, major roads in the city needed to be white-topped.

White-topped roads were expected to last up to 15-20 years. However, the quality roads are now being 'exposed', and in full public view, in less than 15-20 months.

Mic over masks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

can carry with you or clip onto your clothes. They have a good audio/sound range so that the student on the last bench can also listen and understand clearly. Many other schools are also opting for this method now; it depends from individual to individual, if a teacher chooses to use it or not."

The principal said the device also helps cut down any kind of distraction in the classroom. "There are distractions like noises from outside, or sometimes the fan is loud; the students get distracted easily. With this device we are able to regulate the volume according to the need and size of the classroom, it really helps the students to focus too."

In Soundarya Composite PU college, many teachers have adopted this method. "At the moment, not every teacher has it. We have provided the device to teachers with lower vocal range who were facing issues while teaching. We are planning to expand; we have ordered six to seven more devices for more teachers."

Research has shown that there is a significant difference in the quality of the teacher's voice when he or she wears a face mask. From a student listener's perspective, masks interfere with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively by muffling the voice to some extent. That is why the need for audio enhancement in classrooms has increased since the pandemic. According to the information available on the website of the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), the use of lapel microphones helps to overcome the problem.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Prabhakara P, aged about 44 years, S/o. H.N. Prasannachar, R/a # 131/1-A (5), 8th Cross, 18th B Main, JP nagar, II Phase, B,lore 78. I have changed my daughter's name from SMITHA PRABHAKARA TO VAISHNAVI PRABHAKARA MYSORE. Vide affidavit Dtd 11-07-22 sworn before notary Aravind Patil Bangalore

I, Saadhika K Salanke aged 9 years D/o Kiran Kumar N residing at Door No.1, 12th Cross, S.P Extension, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003, have changed my name as Kritanka K Salanke vide affidavit dated 14.07.2022 before notary Kundan Babu, for all future purposes.

I, Vivaswath Tanikella Vinod S/o Vinod Kumar Chandramouli R/o B1001, Miraya Rose, Palm Meadows, Siddapura, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066 have changed my name to VIVASWATH TANIKELLA affidavit Dt.11/07/2022 notary B.S Padmaprasad, B'luru

I, Mumtaz Bano R/o Door No 395/B C K Road Channapatna Ra,managaram Dist Karnataka declare that the name of my spouse Nizamuddin Ibrahim has been wrongly entered in my passport No J4016126 But correct name of my spouse is Syed Nizamuddin for all purposes .

I, Nethra K Salanke aged 13 years D/o Kiran Kumar N residing at Door No. 1, 12th Cross, S.P Extension, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003, have changed my name as Yuktha Akruti K Salanke vide affidavit dated 14.07.2022 before notary Kundan Babu, for all future purposes.

I, SRI Raksha G,D/o.Manjunath Reddy G,age 23,R/o:B105 Snowdrops Apartments Mango Garden Layout Kanakapura Road Bangalore-560062,changed my name to Sri Raksha Gubbihal vide affidavit Dtd:09/07/2022 before B.K.R.Krishnamurthy

I, Madhusudana K, Madhusudan K, Madhu Sudan K, K Madhusudhana, Madhusudana S/O, T Krishnamurthy R/o Aashrayaa Serenity, Flat No 304, 3rd Floor, Akshaya Nagar, Btm Layout Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Madhusudan K .

I, Alpesh S/o Ashok Kumar Geverchand R/o No.42, Ward-3, 5th block, Car Street, Maruthi colony, Tank bund Rd, Ballari 583101 have changed my name to ALPESH JAIN affidavit Dt.11/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, Bengaluru

I, Satbir Singh Chhikara R/o Flat 1114, Tower 1, Embassy Pristine, Iblur, Bangalore 560102 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sanvi to Sanvi Chhikara for all purposes.

I, Sagar Zawar s/o Satyanarayan Asaram Zawar R/o D-003, GR Regent Park, Gottigere Lake Road, Gottigere, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Sagar Satyanarayan Zawar

I, Srilaxmi Kamath W/o Madhukar Kamath R/o No 75, 6th Cross, 1st Main, Mahalakshmi Layout Extn, Bangalore 560086 have changed my name to Srilakshmi Kamath for all purposes.

I Sadik Pasha S/O, Abdul Rashid R/o No 13/7 1st Cross, Padarayanapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560026 have changed my name to Mohammed Sadiq Pasha for all purposes.

I Shravan R S/O, Ramanjalu B R/o No, 437, 6tha Cross Freedom Fighters Colony Laggere Bangalore -560058 have changed my name to Sharavana R for all purposes.

I, Pallavi Zawar w/o Sagar Satyanarayan Zawar R/o D-003, GR Regent Park, Gottigere Lake Rd Gottigere, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Pallavi Sagar Zawar.

I, Monisha K D/o Keshava C, R/o No. 902 Vmaks Heights apartment, Gold coins club road, Sampige Nagar, Kammasandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name to Monisha Ranjith

I, Prakash Shivarudrappa S/O, Shivarudrappa R/o No 41, Harokethanahalli Village, Makali Post, Bengaluru Rural 562123,ka have changed my name to Prakash Harokethana -halli Shivarudrappa for all purposes.

I, Shobhan.V S/o Venkataramanappa K .V R/o #129, Katamnallur, Virgonagar Bengaluru 560049 have Chang - ed my name to SHOBHAN K.V affidavit Dt.06/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru

I Yeshawanth S S/O, Selvanathan K M R/o No 80, Avalahalli Main Road, Green Garden Layout, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru Rural District-560049 have changed my name to Yeshwanth S

I Vivek Siddhnath Ojha S/O, Siddhnath Ojha R/o 355/162, 1b, 8th Cross, Koramangala 1st Block-560034 have changed my name to Vivek Ojha

I Jose Brinner S/O, E Aruldhas have changed my name to Jose Brinner Aruldhas for all purposes.

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No biodiversity register yet, but let's make it electronic

B'luru Biodiversity Management panel wonders why team is being sent to learn how to create electronic format of register when basic work isn't done

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka has 6,554 Biodiversity Management Committees and so that many ePBRs will need to prepared as a repository of its local biological resources

A team from Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) will soon be off to Kerala to learn the ropes of the electronic format of the People's Biodiversity Register (ePBR).

This is after the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) directed all the states to convert PBRs drafted by local bodies into electronic format and make them available online for general benefit.

"We will soon be visiting the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) to understand the procedure of creating ePBR. This is a new process for us and we are looking at getting insights from KSBB. They have already prepared ePBR for their local bodies. The team from KBB will soon visit them to understand the process, learn it and then replicate it in Karnataka," said a KBB official.

The ePBR, as directed by NBA, will not only facilitate community participation but will also be useful in keeping the document dynamic with an option to geo-tag information.

Kerala was the state to prepare its biodiversity register in all local bodies so it was also selected to provide technical guidance on the process.

"As per NBA's directive, KBB also needs to oversee that ePBR is being prepared at every gram panchayat and taluk level. Once done, the data has to be uploaded to the site and should be updated regularly. Karnataka will have its ePBRs ready by the end of this year," said the official.

According to the Biological Biodiversity Act (BDA) 2002, a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas. The committee should then create the biodiversity register, a repository of traditional knowledge of local biological resources. Karnataka has 6,554 BMCs and thus will need to prepare the same number of ePBRs. After the training in Kerala, the team will train all BMC members across the state.

BM has reported on the sorry state of B'luru's BMC

Bengaluru BMC puzzled

However, the members of Bengaluru's BMC are upset with this development. According to Akshay Heblikar, a BMC member, there should be an updated PBR for the board to create an electronic version. "No work has been done on the biodiversity register of Bengaluru as no meeting has been convened. There should be a physical PBR in place to be converted to an ePBR. Since the committee was formulated in 2020, no meeting has been convened by the BBMP Forest department. I have met the current DCF and she has promised to investigate the issue. They are unaware of the status of BMC. The current register is an almost 12 years old document. It has to be updated furst," said Heblikar

According to the KBB officials, the biodiversity management committee of Bengaluru falls under the BBMP Forest Department and the biodiversity board has no hold on the issue. "As per the Biodiversity law, BMC meetings should be held every three months. There should be at least four meetings every year. But, that has not happened in Bengaluru's BMC. BBMP commissioner is the secretary of the committee and the DCF is the nodal officer for KBB-related activities. The meeting has to be convened by them. We do not have any say on this," said the official.

> **"There should be a physical PBR first to be converted to an ePBR. Since the panel was formed in 2020, it has not had a meeting**
> –Akshay Heblikar, BMC member

IN BRIEF

Boost for city's cloud kitchens

My Cloud Kitchen, a consulting and incubation firm for start ups in the cloud kitchen segment, and cloud kitchen company NVA foods which has eight brands portfolio have joined hands to give a $1.23-million boost to others in the sector. The corpus is supposed to provide expertise in vendor tie-ups, menu engineering, inventory management, staff recruitment, culinary training, marketing across Bengaluru. "The company will provide consultancy to aspiring foodpreneurs that are wanting to step into the food delivery business with a unique concept and multi brand multi cuisine business model," said Krunal Oza, founder and CEO of Hustlers Hospitality, that has a stake in My Cloud Kitchen, said.

In 2022, they plan to invest in incubating and consulting at least eight brands in the city.

Lonesome jumbo to get a partner, finally

Karnataka Forest Department authorities have decided to put an end to the lonely life of 55-year-old tusker, Gajendra. The authorities will now transport Durgaparameshwari, a 53-year-old female elephant to accompany Gajendra.

Gajendra is living alone in the K Gudi Forest Range which comes under BR Tiger Reserve and Wild Life Sanctuary. Durgaparameshwari is presently lodged in the Balle elephant camp in Nagarahole National Sanctuary in HD Kote taluk of Mysuru district. Durgaparameshwari was captured in 1972 by forest officials along with three other elephants. Initially Durgaparameshweari was stationed at K. Gudi Forest Range, however, she did not return after taking part in the Mysuru Dasara festival.

Gajendra has been kept in isolation for its act in 2015 when it struck its tusk into the abdomen of another elephant, Srirama, killing the 61-year-old jumbo. Gajendra had also hit its mahout who died. **IANS**

Off go wonky humps from B'luru-Mysuru highway

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The 10-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru highway will take months to be ready. As of now, those commuting between the two cities have to take the existing four-lane road (except for a few stretches where the upgraded road is thrown open). The biggest hurdle for commuters are the speedbreakers, most of which are built in an unscientific manner — causing even damage to cars. The good news is — a drive is on to remove all these humps.

Ironically, though the humps were laid to reduce accidents, they only contributed to a rise in mishaps. To begin with, unscientific road humps were removed from Kumbalgodu in the outskirts till Ramangar town. Ramanagar SP Santosh Babu said that humps were created to cut speed and accidents. "However, we have noticed that a few humps were so bad that they were the cause of accidents and so they are being removed," he said.

Travel time on the Bengaluru-Mysuru road has increased due to multiple humps and traffic diversions. The road is quite dangerous in the night times due to poor lighting and the speed-breakers are not visible. An official claimed that a senior official had directed his juniors to put the speed-breakers in front of his office and quarters.

There were so many speed-breakers here that the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was nicknamed the 'hump highway'. Some time back, the public works (which was maintaining the road till it was handed over to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had sought police protection to remove the humps yet all of them could not be removed. Officials claimed that there was too much opposition from the villagers. According to estimates, there were 106 humps on 140-km stretch of the highway. Officials said local bodies ended up making these humps, after villagers staged protests due to fatal accidents on the stretch.

First the humps are being removed from Kumbalgodu

Another official said, "There were many villages located on either side of the busy road. Accidents have been reported not only because of humps but also because of lack of signage boards on the stretch. Accidents have been reported at the junctions where village roads get connected with the highway. There is a need to replace unscientific humps with scientific ones and also install sign boards on the stretch which alert the drivers."

Local authorities said to have laid humps in haphazard manner as villagers demanded measures to prevent accidents

However, things are set to change with the new highway as it will have by-passes. Bidadi bypass will be 6.9-km long, Ramanagar-Channapatna (22.35 km), Maddur (4.5 km), Mandya (10 km) and Srirangapatna (8 km). There will be an 8-km-long corridor with nine major bridges, 44 minor bridges and four railway over passes. The NHAI says once the road is complete, it will be a 75-minute drive from the start to the finish.

Raindrops keep falling...

Scenes from a city drenched over two days of rain. Most parts of the city received good rainfall on Monday with some roads getting waterlogged in Chickpet. In Basavanagudi, motorists and pedestrians hurried along under umbrellas as a slight drizzle sustained through the day. Temperature remained low for the third day in a row in the city

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Flag Satyagraha to be launched in state

Protest against Centre's recently passed order permitting manufacturing of national flags in machines

Theatre director, playwright and Swadeshi movement activist Prasanna Heggodu has announced a Satyagraha against the Union government's decision 'violating' the existing rules on the national flag.

Talking to IANS, Prasanna Heggodu stated that the Satyagraha against the policy of the Union government will be launched on July 30.

"The Satyagraha will be based on the idea of non-violence. Eminent personalities like Rajagopal and Babu Bhai Thakkar, a 93-year-old Gandhian from Mumbai, and many others are participating in it," he said.

As per the policy on the national flag formulated in 2002, the tricolor flag should be hand woven. It also specifies that the threads used in the flag, whether it is cotton, silk or jute, should be woven with bare hands.

However, the Union Home Ministry has recently passed an order permitting manufacturing of national flags in machines. Till date, only the Khadi Gramodyoga Federation at Bengeri in Hubballi was permitted to produce and sell quality national flags in the country.

The order has been passed in the backdrop of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme in which a call is being given to hoist tricolor on every household in the country as part of the celebrations of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

> "In Hubballi, presently thousands of metres of flags are piled up as they have not been sold in the backdrop of the Covid pandemic

The activist claimed that due to this decision, more than 1,500 workers who were entirely dependent on weaving the national flag all these years would be facing the threat of extinction.

"We never thought the BJP, which championed the cause of 'Swadeshi movement' and 'Make in India', would spell doom for us," the workers said.

Prasanna Heggodu said that 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is a good project but, but the BJP has defeated its biggest slogan of 'Make in India' by allowing foreign participation.

"In Hubballi, presently thousands of meters of flags are piled up as they have not been sold in the backdrop of the Covid pandemic.

The situation is the same in other Khadi centres, including the one in Bengaluru. As a result of this, spinners are not getting work. The Chitradurga unit which processed cotton has been closed down. The decision of the Union Home Ministry will have terrible consequences," he said.

The Union government has not amended the policy but given directions in this regard. The order of the Central government in this regard is not available in public domain. Officers claim that the orders are given orally. There is ambiguity in this regard, Prasanna Heggodu said.

"We have already started agitation against the decision. The movement will start slowly but it will gain momentum soon. Mill made, machine made flags will kill jobs. The new machine from Italy is fully automated and everything could be done at a push of a button," he stated. — IANS

SC to examine HC judge transfer threat matter today

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a matter where a Karnataka High Court judge had claimed receiving a transfer threat in connection with his comments against the functioning of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the state.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Karnataka government, mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, who asked: "What is this threatening judge with transfer and all?"

The matter is in connection with Karnataka High Court Judge Justice HP Sandesh.

The bench was informed that the matter is regarding a series of directions passed by a single judge bench of the high court on a bail plea along with some observations.

The high court, last week, came down heavily at the functioning of the senior officers of the ACB and Justice Sandesh said he was ready to protect the judiciary's independence at the cost of his judgeship.

Counsel also mentioned a separate plea before the apex court on behalf of ACB chief against whom certain observations were made by the high court. The ACB chief's counsel clarified that this was all in the media, and incorrect and it caused damage to his reputation.

After a brief hearing in the matter, the top court agreed to examine the plea on Tuesday and ordered for the listing of the matter before an appropriate bench.

The case was in connection with a criminal petition filed by an accused, who was arrested by the ACB for accepting bribes, allegedly on behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban.

"Your ADGP is apparently powerful. Someone had spoken to a high court judge who mentioned to me an instance of another judge being transferred. I will not hesitate to name the judge who gave this information. There is a threat of transfers to this court. I will protect the independence of the judiciary at the cost of my judgeship," Justice Sandesh had said.

The high court also summoned ACB's special counsel to bring on record data, including B reports and charge sheets filed by the agency since its inception. –IANS

Persian chronicles

From Rumi to Hafez, Persian literature is full of gems

One of the world's oldest, most vibrant, and yet still thriving literary traditions, its impact spans centuries and continents. Were it only known for its medieval -- but still popular -- Sufi mystic poets, its national epic that spans mythology to recorded history, or its tales of star-crossed lovers, it could rest on its laurels. But Persian literature has far much more up its elegant sleeve.

Take, for example, a 14th-century satire that could be the possible predecessor of the cartoon "Tom and Jerry", an early 20th-century work so darkly pessimistic that it was banned on the grounds that it could make its readers suicidal, and an outspoken coming-of-age story, amid revolution, war, and heartbreak -- in a graphic novel format.

What's more, there is a distinct Indian connection to modern Persian literature too -- both as far as content and production go, in line with the centuries-old links between the two civilisations.

Whenever we think of Persian literature, however, what generally comes to mind is its glittering firmament of classical poets, who flourished from the ninth to the 13th centuries. Let us begin with them only.

There is Hafez (or Hafiz), who was even once quoted by Sherlock Holmes, or Sheikh Sa'di, of the "Bustan", a verse work enlisting standard virtues for people, and "Gulistan", a prose work, sprinkled liberally with short poems of aphorisms, advice, and reflections on the fickleness of fate, and one of the earliest expressions of the absurdity of human existence.

Omar Khayyam, the 'Sage of Naishapur', has, to his credit, the "Rubaiyat", one of the best-known works of world poetry, especially after its English rendition by Edward Fitzgerald.

This rather free-wheeling translation would not only go on to inspire titles of works by such diverse authors as Agatha Christie, Eugene O'Neill and Rex Stout -- but achieve the singular task of making Khayyam popular all over again in his homeland.

And above all, there is Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi, whose focus on personal paths to understand and unite with divinity, and the overwhelming nature of selfless and sacred love, make him one of the world's foremost and most popular poets -- especially in the US, where even recordings of his worktop the music charts.

And then there is Rudaki, the first poet to write in New Persian. He crafted a poem so evocative that, according to one account, it moved the king so much that midway he jumped onto a horse and rode away so fast that his courtiers had to pursue him for miles before they could persuade him to wear shoes as well as leggings, and he never drew rein till he reached home.

There is also Nizami Ganjavi, whose fame rests not only on two works of passionate but doomed love "Khosrow and Shirin" (of which the Shirin-Farhad episode is more known than the whole work) and "Layla and Majnun", which is Arabic in the source but substantially reworked.

In the realm of prose, Ferdowsi/Fardushi's "Shahnameh" is not only an engrossing read of the country's mythology and history, but it also stands as a glorious testament to how a national civilisation thrives despite the religious change.

And there is the 14th-century writer Ubayd Zakani, whose "Mush-o-Gorbeh" ("Cat and Mice") is about a cat who drinks and kills mice, then repents, but gets so mad about a mouse as to gather an army to fight the little creatures. It may seem like a fable for children, but is actually a trenchant political satire targeting organised religion and its hypocrisies.

Persian literature did not leave its commanding heights in modern times too - even as the country was embroiled in social and political turmoil. There was a growing belief that literature should reflect, not remain distant from, contemporary realities.

There was even a directive from a leading mid-19th century statesman, who upbraided a poet for "lying", that literature must espouse modernism.

But litterateurs are a stubborn bunch and work on their own whims and fancies. Let us take a look at some modern works too.

Among the first stand-bearers of Iranian modernist literature, Sadegh Hedayat is known for his overly morbid "The Blind Owl" (1936 in Persian, 1957 in English) -- initially published in a limited edition in Bombay and stamped with "Not for sale or publication in Iran".

With Hedayat in India to learn about his country's ancient Zoroastrian religion and pick up Sanskrit too, the novella infuses Indian and Iranian myths and icons.

Hedayat, who himself committed suicide in 1951, was a prolific short story writer too -- but these too are far from cheery.

A bit happier but unrestrained in its satire is Iraj Pezeshkzad's "My Uncle Napoleon" (1973 in Persian; 1996 in English), a coming-of-age novel set against the backdrop of the Allied occupation of Iran during World War II.

At its heart, it is the story of the struggles of the unnamed narrator -- a high school student -- to stall his cousin's pre-arranged marriage to another cousin in order to get her for himself.

And finally, no literary tradition can be complete without mentioning the voice of women, who, repressed otherwise, can use the pen to share their plight and even hit back.

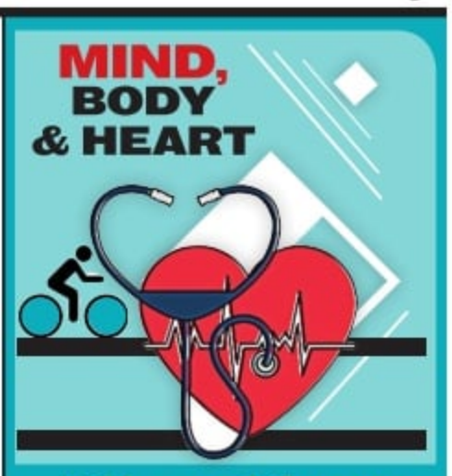
Shahrnoush Parsipur's "Women Without Men" (written in the 1970s, but first published in 1989 in Persian and 1998 in English) uses inter-woven narratives and Magical Realism to depict the social condition of Iranian women and their desire to break free.

It depicts five women - a former school teacher grappling with a disquieting experience, another who seeks independence and a husband, an older woman shaken by revelations about virginity, a disenchanted middle-class housewife, and a cheerful prostitute, who meet in a magical garden, where they can freely reflect on their lives, dreams, and desires.

Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis" series is well-known as a semi-autobiographical account of loss of faith and trust in religion, society, and even relationships, but it is her "Embroideries" (2003 in French; 2005 in English) that is more-hard hitting in its candid discussion on sex among three generations of women of a household and some of their friends and neighbours.

— Vikas Dutta, IANS

> **In the modern era while the country was in political turmoil, literature flourished. Sadegh Hedayat was one of the pioneer writers of the era**



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a woman in my 40s and have a 15-year-old daughter with my husband. He was cheating on me for several months with another woman and when it all came out I kicked him out.
However, we started talking, he ended the affair and we decided to try again. It's going OK and we're having counselling together, but there's still a lot of work to do.
My problem is, my daughter is very opposed to him being back.
She really resents him for what he did and either refuses to speak to him or starts a raging argument.
What do I do to make things easier at home?

COLEEN SAYS

Well, you can't make your daughter feel a certain way - she obviously feels hurt by what he's done and is probably angry because of how he's hurt you.
I think it'll take some time for things to settle. I also think it's hard for you to rebuild their relationship - it's really up to your husband to talk to your daughter, to show remorse and to try to explain why it happened.
And he needs to reassure her that he's going to work really hard to prove that he deserves this second chance.
You could also attempt to have a family meeting where you each get to say how you feel, or include your daughter in therapy, if that's something she's willing to try.art, she'll want to reconnect.

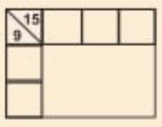
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

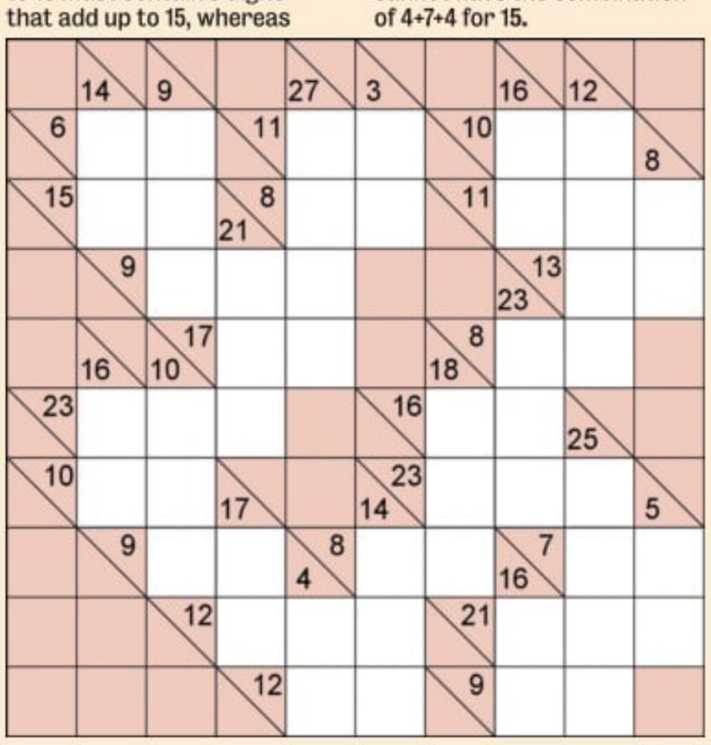
There are 143 3-digit prime numbers. For which of these is the sum of the 3 digits greater than 21? (There are 11 answers.)

Kakuro

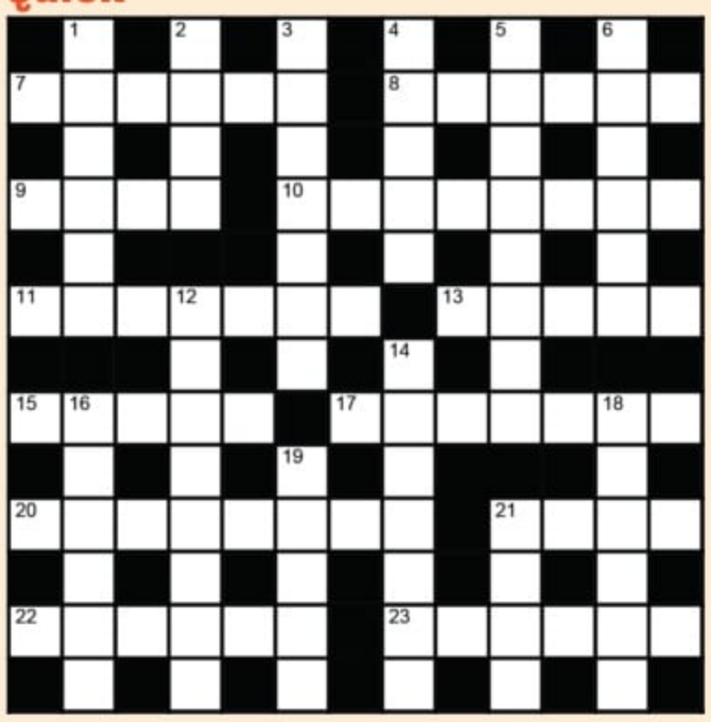
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Ambassador of the Pope (6)
8 Nabbed (6)
9 Flying creature (4)
10 Fireproofing stuff (8)
11 Unshaven (7)
13 Tripoli is its capital (5)
15 Tourist destination which used to be the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire (5)
17 Sent out (7)
20 Local slang for a policeman (8)
21 An astringent (4)
22 ___ off : goes away, especially from person one hates? (6)
23 Tightens or contracts (6)

DOWN

1 Settle or resolve (6)
2 Magical stick (4)
3 Reduced in value (7)
4 Underwater breathing device (5)
5 Creates a havoc or starts a stampede, in a way? (4,4)
6 Conjectural idea (6)
12 Substitutes (8)
14 Turkish inns–"i.e. smart" break-up? (7)
16 Queen of Crime ___ Christie (6)
18 Draws out or reasons out (6)
19 Writer of lyric poetry (5)
21 A in A.D. ? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS G

J JWROWZ RH SJDO THCODOC, HC ZJO RCLJWU.–UCHMGYH AVCF

Linemaro

If I ask you out, would the answer be the same as the answer to this question?

Mindchow

A pessimist is a person who has had to listen to too many optimists

Joke of the day

I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it

Loop

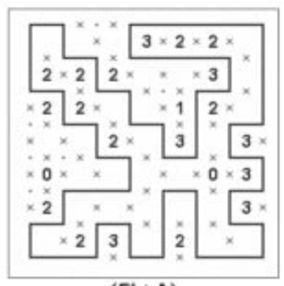
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

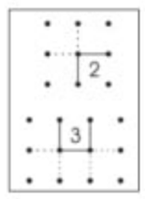
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

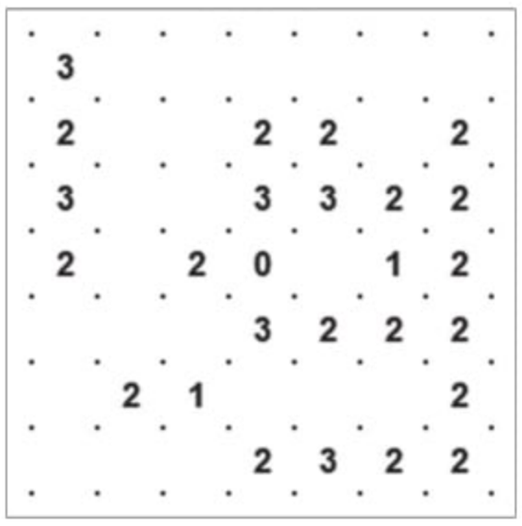
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



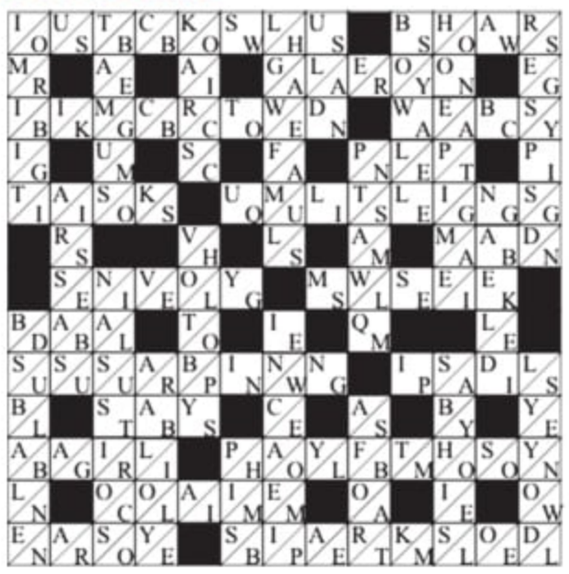
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



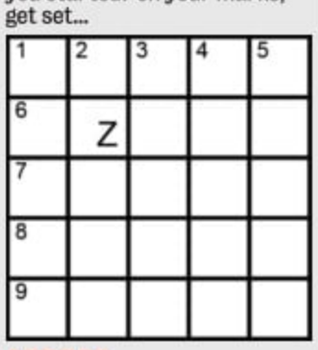
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

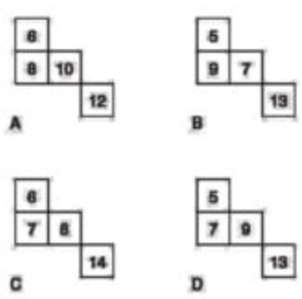
1 Moral; 6 Daze I; 7 Gee NS; 8 In pet; 9 Scant

DOWN

1 Gamic; 2 A Zone; 3 Lenin; 4 Taped; 5 Tress

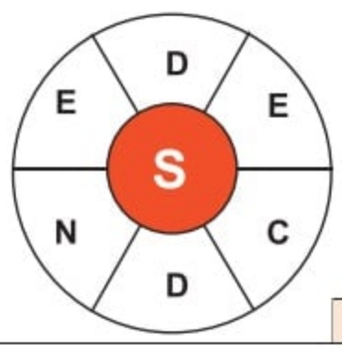
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?



1	2	4	7
4	?	7	10
6	?	?	12
7	8	10	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		9					3	
2	8		1				6	
			8	4				7
			2		5	1	7	
		3		8		6		
	2	8	6		4			
3				9	2			
	6				8		4	2
	4					3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

÷ × + −

Easy = 7

2 4 7 8

Medium = 29

1 2 3 5

Hard = 11

2 5 9 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Vacuum is moved. 3. Blinds are higher. 4. Drawer is larger. 5. Back of chair is higher. 6. Bottom of chair is different.

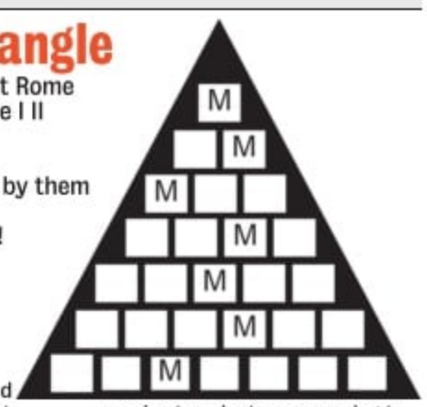
Riddler

Take the given words, and by moving a single letter from one word to the other, make a pair of synonyms, or near synonyms. For example, given: Boast–Hip, move the 's' from 'Boast' to 'Hip' creating two synonyms: Boat–Ship

1. Blog–Ranch
2. Over–Plaint
3. Outage–Ranger

Alpha triangle

1 10 x 100 in ancient Rome
2 "I think, therefore I II
3 Mothers
4 Identical
5 We are all known by them
6 Flower part
7 Indian salutation!



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

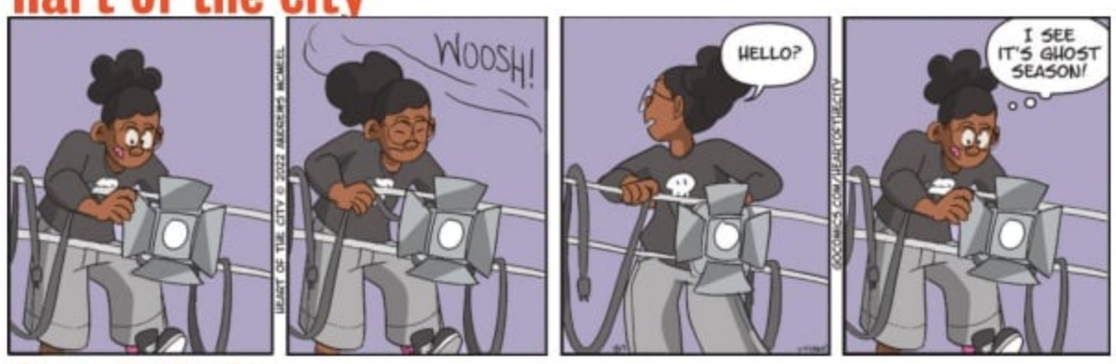
COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft

AS SPECULATION GROWS AROUND THE ORIGIN OF THE BACKYARD GRILL DISCOVERED IN SPACE...
ASTRONOMERS ARE SAYING THAT IF IT WAS BUILT BY AN ALIEN LIFE FORM...
IT APPEARS TO BE ONE THAT ENJOYS GRILLING OUT!
5-5

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid making investments in worthless assets. You may also notice that friends and people around you may not be supportive today. You are advised not to expect more from anyone in terms of help, otherwise, it may make you nervous. It is advised to take independent decisions today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may have confidence which may reflect in your way of working. You are in the winning position in terms of opponents and enemies. You may have a good focus on your goals. Health issues may be resolved. Try to avoid unnecessary arguments, it may affect your domestic harmony.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may be happy due to a blessing from an auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of positive energy which may create your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying intellectual stuff. You will also plan for higher studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy with your family and friends. You may plan to renovate your house or may bring some creative stuff to maintain your social status, which may increase your prestige. You may expect an increase in your fixed assets.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may not be able to be practical enough. You may have a dull day, which may give you a lack of confidence. So you need to follow your intuition while making decisions in terms of investment. People around you may not be cooperative in terms of work. You are advised not to eat unhealthy food to avoid stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be blessed by your destiny, your postponed projects may be started now, with the help of the elder's blessings. Messy situation will now be under control which may speed up your project. Disputes between family members are likely to be resolved which may increase domestic harmony. You may be attracted by glamour.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a positive day in terms of gains. you may get results with less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your wisdom. You may plan for higher studies to groom your career. You may donate some amount to religious places or charity. You may also help needy people. Some investment into an intellectual asset may be possible.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel happy, your health-related issues may be cured. Chronic disease may be cured. You are advised to avoid rash driving. You are advised to avoid conflicts with your business partners. You may take some important decisions in terms of business investments. With the blessings from elders, you will utilize your time in worthy things.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your moon is not in a good position, you may feel dull and may have health issues. You may face losses in this period. It is advised not to invest in risky assets. Your gains are likely to convert into losses. You should stop investing in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies, otherwise, it may pull you down.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, your destiny is with you, and your postponed projects are likely to be started now. You may have elder's blessings, which may help you to come out from the messy situation and may boost the speed of your work. Domestic harmony may make you happy after resolving some disputes between family members.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a good day. With the help of good focus, you may perform well in business and work. Your boss may be supportive, you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotion. there may be some visits to a religious place. it is advised to avoid arrogance in your love life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.

KIDZONE

Karthik, 10 Years, SES English School

Keerthan Gj, 11 Years, SES English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
499, 599, 769, 787, 797, 859, 877, 887, 967, 977, 997

BULL'S EYE
dense, DESCEND, scene, seed, seen, send

STRIKE OUT

O	U	T	B	O	W	L	S	B	O	A	R
R	A	A	A	A	R	O	N	E		
B	I	G	C	R	O	W	D	W	E	B	S
I		U	S		F	P	E	T		I
T	A	S	K	Q	U	I	S	L	I	N	G
	R		H		L		A		M	A	N
E	N	V	O	Y		S	L	E	E	K	
B	A	A		O	E		M		E		
U	S	U	R	P	I	N	G		P	A	D	S
B	A	S		C		A		B		Y	
B	A	I	L		H	A	L	F	M	O	O	N
L		C	L	A	I	M		A		I		O
	E	A	S	Y		S	P	A	R	K	L	E	D

RIDDLER
1. Log – Branch,
2. Overt – Plain,
3. Outrage – Anger

FAST FIVE

M	O	L	A	R
A	Z	I	D	E
G	E	N	E	S
I	N	E	P	T
C	A	N	T	S

QUICK

											A	
									S	H	E	
								T		G		
							H	A	M	P	I	
						B	E	A	R	D	E	D
										D		
					B	I	R	D				
					C		N					
				L	E	G	A	T	E			
						D						

QUOTE UNCODE
I intend to live forever, or die trying.
– Groucho Marx

MENSA PUZZLE
D: lines across proceed +1, +2, +3.
Lines down proceed +3, +2, +1;

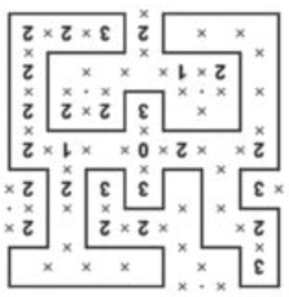
SUDOKU

8	4	2	5	6	7	3	9	1
9	6	5	3	1	8	7	4	2
3	7	1	4	9	2	5	8	6
1	2	8	6	7	4	9	5	3
7	5	3	9	2	8	1	6	4
6	9	4	2	3	5	1	7	8
5	3	6	8	4	9	2	1	7
2	8	7	1	5	3	4	6	9
4	1	9	7	2	6	8	3	5

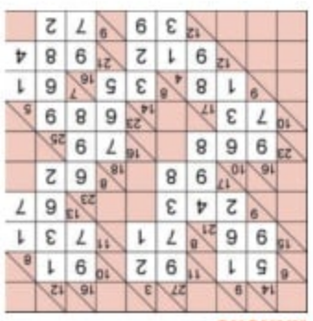
ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Mas, Same, Names, Stamen, Namaste.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 2 + 4 – 7 = 7
Medium
3 x 5 x 2 – 1 = 29
Hard
2 + 2 x 5 – 9 = 11

LOOP



KAKURO



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Furious Florence After being trolled for wearing a see-through dress, actor Florence Pugh wrote that it was worrying just how vulgar some of the men can be. "I've lived in my body for a long time. I'm fully aware of my breast size and am not scared of it," she wrote

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Wedding bells about to ring?

Here is what we hear: Athiya to marry beau KL Rahul in next 3 months

Suniel Shetty's daughter Athiya Shetty recently returned from Germany with her beau KL Rahul after he underwent successful surgery. Reportedly, KL Rahul suffered a groin injury during a training session on June 8. According to the latest report, the couple is expected to tie the knot in three months.

They have been seeing each other for more than three years. The report suggests that the duo recently visited their new house with their families to see the progress.

According to India Today, Athiya and KL Rahul's wedding is expected to take place in the next three months in Mumbai. It is also being said that it will be a grand affair for both the families and every detail of the big day is being looked after by Athiya herself.

Meanwhile, KL Rahul shared a note for his fans and informed that he is 'healing and recovering well'. He wrote, "Hello everyone. It's been a tough couple of weeks but the surgery was successful. I'm healing and recovering well. My road to recovery has begun. Thank you for your messages and prayers. See you soon."

Couple has been together for more than three years and recently visited their new house with their families

Athiya also shared his picture on her Instagram story and shared it with a smiling emoji.

Athiya and KL Rahul made their relationship official last year on social media. The duo made their first public appearance together at Ahan Shetty's 'Tadap' screening. **-ETimes**

If you're happy and you know, tap your feet!

Groovy new song from Liger is an earworm now

Vijay Deverakonda is here to set fire to your screens yet again, this time with 'Liger's new song, Akdi Pakdi, after having set records with his kickass poster a few days ago. Taking to his social media, the actor finally released the super groovy and foot-tapping dance number as he wrote. The dashing star's energy in the song is just unbeatable as he enthusiastically matches the beats with such ease that you just won't be able to take your eyes off of him. With good looks and smooth dance moves, he will have your attention caught through this massy dance number. The catchy beats are sure to have one and all dancing to it in no time.

The last poster of Liger, an eye-catching look dropped a few days ago on the 2nd of July, creating quite the stir across the country, setting records as it became the first-ever poster to get the fastest 1 million likes and also had the actor trending on a social media platform continuously for over 24 hours with the poster. What truly left all in awe of Vijay's Pan-India fandom was when thousands of females took his surname and changed their Instagram handles to include Deverakonda.

Smashing in a saree

All the times actor Kiara Advani reminded us that sarees are the best way to look timelessly stylish

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Ranveer buys Rs 119-cr luxury quadruplex

Actor Ranveer Singh has bought a sea-view luxury quadruplex apartment in a super-premium residential tower Sagar Resham on Bandstand in Mumbai's plush Bandra locality for Rs 119 crore, making it one of the most expensive deals for a single residential apartment anywhere in the country.

Apart from being a direct sea-facing property, it is located between Bollywood actor Salman Khan's residence in Galaxy and Shahrukh Khan's bungalow Mannat on the same stretch.

The apartment, which is spread across the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th floor of the tower, has a total 11,266 sq ft of carpet area and a 1,300 sq ft exclusive terrace.

-Kailash Babar, ET

How Ranbir got the 6-pack

Ranbir Kapoor's muscular look from 'Shamshera' is being widely discussed.

For the role, it looks like Ranbir trained hard at the gym! In the new pictures, Ranbir is seen flaunting his six-pack abs.

About Ranbir's look, the film's director Karan Malhotra said, "Ranbir has worked very hard to own up to the roles of Shamshera and Balli. The idea behind him building a particular physique for the film came from the fact that I wanted the audience to feel his internal strength and resolve every time they saw him on screen. So, keeping that core idea in mind, I manoeuvred Ranbir towards building up a body which added more strength to his character in the film."

He added, "The intention was never for his physique to be a distraction but an asset to his characters. And I can say this confidently that Ranbir worked hard on making his mental and physical presence felt in both the characters..."

Ranbir's trainer Kunal Gir revealed the secret behind the actor's ripped body in the film. He said, " "We trained 5 days a week, each session was an hour-long followed by a quick 5 min high-intensity cardio session we called 'truck'. It's where the treadmill was turned off and RK was to hold the handles of the machine and drive the belt with his legs." **ANI**